

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1-41 (cancelled)

42. (Currently amended) A method of attaching a ligament or tendon implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient comprising the steps of:

- (a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;
- (b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other than than the bone;
- (c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping hook, configured for grasping a free end of the ligament or tendon implant and a shaft attached to said grasping hook, wherein the shaft is configured to interact with a securing means, and wherein the shaft and grasping hook are adapted to fit within the drill hole in said bone;
- (d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping hook;
- (e) drawing the implant into the drill hole; and
- (f) securing the shaft to the securing means, such that the implant is retained within the drill hole and such that the shaft

is not locked to the bone and remains moveable with respect to the securing means.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42, where the securing means is configured to attach to the shaft of the attachment member.

44-60 (cancelled)

61. (Original) The method of claim 42, where the attachment member is comprised of a metal.

62. (Original) The method of claim 61, where the metal is selected from the group comprising: titanium, stainless steel, cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloy, titanium-aluminum vanadium alloy, and other alloys thereof.

63-66 (cancelled)

67. (Original) The method of claim 42, where the implant comprises a bone patellar tendon bone implant.

68- 71 (cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) A method of attaching a ligament or tendon implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient comprising the steps of:

- (a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;
- (b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other ~~then~~ than the bone;
- (c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping means for grasping the ligament or tendon implant and a shaft attached to said grasping means, wherein the shaft and grasping means are adapted to fit within the hole in said bone, the attachment member further comprising a locking means disposed on the shaft;
- (d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping means;
- (e) drawing the implant into the drill hole;
- (f) inserting the shaft into a securing means having a receiving means for interacting with the locking means in a non-threaded interference fit to thereby inhibit movement of said attachment member relative to the bone in a first direction; and
- (g) inserting the shaft further into the securing means until the implant is subjected to an increased tension, and locking the shaft with the locking means to thereby maintain said increased tension.

73. (Original) The method of claim 72, where the securing means is disposed to attach to the shaft of the ligament attachment member.

74. (currently amended) The method of claim 72, where the first direction is opposite the direction in which the shaft is inserted into the drill hole.

75. (currently amended) The method of claim 72, where the locking means further comprises a series of slanted ridges formed along the a long axis of the shaft.

76. (Original) The method of claim 75, where the securing means further comprises a push nut.

77. (Original) The method of claim 76, where the receiving means further comprises one or more flanges located on the push nut, surrounding a central hole, the flanges configured to allow the slanted ridges on the shaft to pass in one direction when the shaft is inserted into the central hole, but engaging the slanted ridges in an interference fit when the shaft is moved in an opposite direction.

78. (Original) The method of claim 77, where the step of drilling a hole in the bone further comprises drilling a contoured hole including a larger diameter portion where the push nut can be secured against the bone with the entire device remaining inside the endosteal portion of said bone.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78, where the push nut is comprised of a metal.

80. (Original) The method of claim 79, where the metal is selected from the group comprising: titanium, stainless steel, cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloy, titanium-aluminum vanadium alloy, and other alloys thereof.

81-82 (cancelled)

83. (Original) The method of claim 72, where the attachment member is comprised of a metal.

84. (Original) The method of claim 83, where the metal is selected from the group comprising: titanium, stainless steel, cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloy, titanium-aluminum vanadium alloy, and other alloys thereof.

85-86 (cancelled)

87. (Original) The method of claim 72, where the grasping means further comprises a grasping hook.

88. (Original) The method of claim 72, further comprising the step of attaching a tension measuring means to the implant.

89. (Original) The method of claim 72, where the implant comprises a bone patellar tendon bone implant.

90-121 (Canceled)

122. (New) A method of attaching an implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient, said implant having a bone plug disposed on a free end, said method comprising steps of:

- (a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;
- (b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other than the bone;
- (c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping hook disposed on a shaft such that a portion of the shaft resides outside of the drill hole, wherein said shaft is characterized by an absence of any bone engaging structures thereon;

(d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping hook;

(e) drawing the bone plug of the implant into the drill hole;

(f) introducing the portion of the shaft residing outside of the drill hole into a securing means and moving said securing means along the portion of the shaft residing outside of the drill hole in a direction of said hook until said securing means is in contact with said bone; and

(g) securing the shaft to the securing means such that the implant is retained within the drill hole and such that the shaft is not engaged to the bone in a securing manner.

123. (New) A method of attaching an implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient, said implant having a bone plug disposed on a free end, said method comprising steps of:

(a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;

(b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other than the bone;

(c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping hook disposed on a shaft such that a portion of the shaft resides outside of the drill hole, said shaft having a round cross section and having a plurality of frusto-conical ridges disposed along a length thereof, said shaft being

characterized by an absence of any bone engaging structures thereon;

(d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping hook;

(e) drawing the bone plug of the implant into the drill hole;

(f) introducing the portion of the shaft residing outside of the drill hole into a central hole of a push nut, said push nut having a plurality of flanges positioned around said central hole;

(g) moving said push nut along the portion of the shaft residing outside of the drill hole in a direction of said hook to thereby sequential engage the frusto-conical ridges on said shaft with said plurality of flanges until said push nut is in contact with said bone;

(h) varying a tension of said implant as a function of a position between said shaft and said push nut;

(i) securing the shaft to the push nut such that the implant is retained within the drill hole and such that the shaft is not locked to the bone and remains moveable with respect to the securing means; and

(j) trimming off an excess portion of said shaft residing outside of the drill hole.

124. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein said shaft is characterized by an absence of any bone engaging structures.



125. (New) A method of attaching an implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient, said implant having an enlarged bone plug disposed on a free end, said method comprising steps of:

- (a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;
- (b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other than the bone;
- (c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping hook, configured for grasping a free end of the implant and a shaft attached to said grasping hook, wherein the shaft is configured to interact with a securing means, and wherein the shaft and grasping hook are adapted to fit within the drill hole in said bone;
- (d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping hook;
- (e) drawing the enlarged bone plug into the drill hole; and
- (f) securing the shaft to the securing means.

126. (New) A method of attaching an implant to the endosteal portion of a bone of a patient comprising the steps of:

- (a) drilling a hole through the bone of the patient;
- (b) attaching the implant to an anatomical structure other than the bone;
- (c) inserting through the drill hole an attachment member comprising a grasping hook, configured for grasping a free end of

the implant, and a shaft attached to said grasping hook, wherein the shaft is configured to interact with a securing means and said shaft is characterized by an absence of any bone engaging structures;

(d) grasping the free end of the implant with the grasping hook;

(e) drawing the implant into the drill hole; and

(f) securing the shaft to the securing means.